

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (original): A merchandising track device for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

first and second elongate track members formed separately as two discrete structures, said first and second
5 members being connected together in an end-to-end, longitudinally adjacent relationship, each of said members comprising a track base for carrying articles for sliding movement along said each member, and at least one
10 article-guiding side wall upstanding from said track base of said each member and extending along said each member, said one side wall of said first member being disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one side wall of said second member and including a portion extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one side wall of said second
15 member, said one side wall of said second member having a cutout opening to said upper edge thereof and to opposite side surfaces thereof;

locking means integrally formed with said first member for interconnecting said one side wall of said first
20 member and said one side wall of said second member to lock said members in position relative to each other, said locking means comprising a flexible overhang extending rearward from said portion of said one side wall of said first member and disposed over said upper edge of said one
25 side wall of said second member, said flexible overhang engages side of said one side wall of said second member with a lug formed integrally with said overhang and received in said cutout, whereby longitudinal displacement of said

one side wall of said first member relative to said one side
30 wall of said second member is prevented; and

a pair of engaging tabs provided disposed
respectively alongside said opposite side surfaces of said
one side wall of said second member with at least one of
said engaging tabs formed on said lug so that lateral
35 displacement of said one side wall of said first member
relative to said one side wall of said second member is
prevented.

Claim 2 (original): A merchandising track device
for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

an elongate body having a forward end, said body
comprising a track base for carrying a row of articles for
5 sliding movement along said body, a tongue extending
forwardly from said track base and defining said forward end
of said body, and at least one article-guiding side wall
upstanding from said track base and extending along said
body;

10 a front piece formed as a discrete structure
separate from said body and attached to said forward end of
said body to provide a stopper for preventing a leading
article in said row from exiting said track device, said
front piece comprising a deck for supporting said leading
15 article, at least one upright wall upstanding from said deck
and disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one
side wall, said one upright wall including a portion
extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one sidewall;
and locking means for interconnecting said one upright wall
20 and said one side wall to lock said front piece in position
relative to said body, said locking means including a

flexible overhang integrally formed with said front piece and extending rearward from said portion of said one upright wall and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall
25 with said flexible overhang flexing to either side of said one side wall of said second member; and

a pair of engaging tabs disposed respectively alongside opposite side surfaces of said one side wall, at least one of said engaging tabs being integrally formed with
30 said overhang, whereby lateral displacement of said one upright wall relative to said one side wall is prevented, and wherein one sidewall has a cutout opening to said upper edge and said opposite side surface thereof, and at

least one engaging tab is formed on a lug to engage
35 in said cutout.

Claim 3 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said lug has a thickness greater than a thickness of said one side wall, and both said engaging tabs are formed on said lug.

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Claim 4 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said tongue is provided with a hooking element projecting therefrom, and said deck has a strip portion having a front and rear opposed faces, said front
5 face providing an edge for engaging said hooking element to prevent forward displacement of said front piece with respect to said body, said rear face sloping to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said socket.

Claim 5 (original): The track device according to claim 4, wherein said engaging edge of said deck extends transversely of said body.

Claim 6 (original): The track device according to claim 5, wherein said strip portion is provided by said lower wall and extends transversely of said body, said rear face of said strip portion sloping downwardly and rearwardly, said hooking element projecting downwardly from a lower surface of said tongue.

Claim 7 (original): The track device according to claim 4, wherein said tongue is formed with at least one notch for dividing said tongue into plural portions so that one of said plural portions exhibits substantial flexibility, and said one of said plural portions is provided with said hooking element.

Claim 8 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said engaging tabs are disposed with a lateral gap therebetween to receive in said gap an edge of said one sidewall.

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Claim 9 (original): The track device according to claim 8, wherein said engaging tabs are opposed to each other across a thickness of said one side wall.

Claim 10 (original): The track device according to claim 8, wherein said engaging tabs are disposed at positions offset from each other along a length of said one side wall.

Claim 11 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said body and said front piece are formed from different material.

Claim 12 (original): The track device according to claim 11, wherein said body is molded of polystyrene, and said front piece is molded of polycarbonate.

Claim 13 (original): The track device according to claim 2, wherein said tongue is formed with at least one notch for dividing said tongue into plural portions so that one of said plural portions exhibits substantial
5 flexibility, and said one of said plural portions is provided with said hooking element.

Claim 14 (original): A merchandising track device for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

first and second elongate track members formed separately as two discrete structures, said first and second
5 members being connected together in an end-to-end, longitudinally adjacent relationship, each of said members comprising a track base for carrying articles for sliding movement along said each member, and at least one
10 article-guiding side wall upstanding from said track base of said each member and extending along said each member, said one side wall of said first member being disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one side wall of said
second member and including a portion extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one side wall of said second
15 member, said one side wall of said second member having a

cutout opening to said upper edge thereof and to opposite side surfaces thereof;

said second member comprising a tongue extending longitudinally from said track base of said second member, said tongue defining an end of said second member, said first member having an end-opening socket for receiving said tongue so that said track bases of said first and second members are interconnected, said tongue being formed on said track base of said second member such that an upper surface of said tongue is disposed below an upper surface of said track base of said second member to allow said upper surface of said track base of said second member and an upper surface of said track base of said first member to form a continuous floor for slidably supporting said articles, wherein said track base of said first member comprises upper and lower opposed walls, and said socket is defined between said upper and lower walls; and

locking means integrally formed with said first member for interconnecting said one side wall of said first member and said one side wall of said second member to lock said members in position relative to each other, said locking means comprising a flexible overhang extending rearward from said portion of said one side wall of said first member and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall of said second member with said flexible overhang flexing to either side of said one side wall of said second member, and a lug with tabs formed integrally with and extending from said overhang and received in said cutout, whereby longitudinal displacement of said one side wall of said first member relative to said one side wall of said second member is prevented.

Claim 15 (original): The track device according to claim 14, wherein said tongue is provided with a hooking element projecting therefrom, and said track base of said first member has a strip portion having a front and rear
5 opposed faces, said front face providing an edge for engaging said hooking element to prevent longitudinal displacement of said first member with respect to said second member, said rear face sloping to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said socket.

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Claim 16 (original): A merchandising track device for displaying articles, said track device comprising:

an elongate body having a forward end, said body comprising a track base for carrying a row of articles for
5 sliding movement along said body, a tongue extending forwardly from said track base and defining said forward end of said body, and at least one article-guiding side wall upstanding from said track base and extending along said body; and

10 a front piece formed as a discrete structure separate from said body and attached to said forward end of said body to provide a stopper for preventing a leading article in said row from exiting said track device, said front piece comprising a deck for supporting said leading
15 article, said deck having a socket for receiving said tongue so that said deck and said track base are interconnected, said tongue being formed on said track base such that an upper surface of said tongue is disposed below an upper surface of said track base to allow said upper surface of
20 said track base and an upper surface of said deck to form a

continuous floor for slidably supporting said articles, at least one upright wall upstanding from said deck and disposed in general longitudinal alignment with said one side wall, said one upright wall including a portion
25 extending upwardly above an upper edge of said one sidewall; and locking means integrally formed with said front piece for interconnecting said one upright wall with said one side wall to lock said front piece in position relative to said body, said locking means including a flexible overhang
30 extending rearward from said portion of said one upright wall and disposed over said upper edge of said one side wall having said cutout, said flexible overhang flexing to either side of said one side wall of said second member; and
a pair of engaging tabs disposed respectively
35 alongside opposite side surfaces of said one side wall in a cutout with at least one of said engaging tabs being integrally formed with said overhang so that lateral displacement of said one upright wall relative to said one side wall is prevented.

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Claim 17 (original): The track device according to claim 16, wherein said tongue is provided with a hooking element projecting therefrom, and said deck has a strip portion having front and rear opposed faces, said front face
5 providing an edge for engaging said hooking element to prevent forward displacement of said front piece with respect to said body, said rear face sloping to facilitate insertion of said tongue into said socket.

Claim 18 (new): A front panel assembly for a merchandising display track device, said track device being

adapted to receive a row of articles for sliding movement therealong, said front panel assembly, comprising:

5 a base adapted to receive said row of articles for sliding movement therealong;

 a first upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said first vertical member being connected along its bottom end
10 portion to said base;

 a second upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said second vertical member being laterally spaced from said first vertical member and connected along its bottom end portion
15 to said base;

 an elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end portion of said first vertical member and a second end portion connected to said top end portion of said second vertical member, said connecting
20 member curving outwardly away from said vertical members; and

 means for detachably attaching said first and second vertical members to said track device.

Claim 19 (new): A front panel, as set forth in claim 18, including:

 a first face member connected to said front edge of said first vertical member, said first face member
5 extending laterally a preselected distance from said first vertical member toward said second vertical member; and

 a second face member connected to said front edge of said second vertical member, said second face member extending laterally a preselected distance from said second
10 vertical member toward said first vertical member.

Claim 20 (new): A front panel, as set forth
in claim 19, wherein said first and second face members are
connected to said base.

Claim 21 (new): A front panel assembly for a
merchandising display track device, said track device
having a track base adapted to receive a row of articles
for sliding movement therealong, said front panel assembly,
5 comprising:
 a floor deck adapted to receive said row of articles
for sliding movement therealong;
 a first upstanding vertical member having a top end,
a bottom end portion and a front edge, said first vertical
10 member being connected along its bottom end portion to said
floor deck;
 a second upstanding vertical member having a top
end, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said second
vertical member being laterally spaced from said first
15 vertical member and connected along its bottom end portion
to said floor deck;
 an elongate connecting member having a first end
connected to said top end of said first vertical member and
a second end portion connected to said top end of said
20 second vertical member, said connecting member curving
outwardly away from said vertical members; and
 means for detachably attaching said floor deck to
said track base.

Claim 22 (new): A front panel assembly for a
merchandising display track device, said track device being
adapted to receive rows of articles for sliding movement
therealong, said front panel assembly, comprising:
5 a base;
 a first upstanding vertical member having a top end
portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said first

vertical member being connected along its bottom end portion to said base;

10 a second upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said second vertical member being laterally spaced from said first vertical member and connected along its bottom end portion to said base;

15 a third upstanding vertical member having a top end portion, a bottom end portion and a front edge, said third vertical member being laterally spaced from said second vertical member and connected along its bottom end portion to said base, said second vertical member being

20 intermediate said first and third vertical members;

 a first elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end portion of said first vertical member and a second end portion connected to said top end portion of said second vertical member, said first
25 connecting member curving outward away from said first and second vertical members;

 a second elongate connecting member having a first end connected to said top end portion of said second vertical member and a second end portion connected to said
30 top end portion of said third vertical member, said second connecting member curving outward away from said second and third vertical members; and

 means for detachably attaching said front panel assembly to said track device.

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 Claim 23 (new): A front panel, as set forth in claim 22, including:

 a first face member having a top end portion and a bottom end portion and being connected to said front edge
5 of said first vertical member, said first face member extending laterally a preselected distance from said first vertical member toward said second vertical member;

10 a second face member having a top end portion and a
bottom end portion and being connected to said front edge
of said second vertical member, said second face member
extending laterally a preselected distance from said second
vertical member toward said first vertical member and
extending laterally a preselected distance from said second
vertical member toward said third vertical member; and
15 a third face member having a top end portion and a
bottom end portion and being connected to said front edge
of said third vertical member, said third face member
extending laterally a preselected distance from said third
vertical member toward said second vertical member.

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Claim 24 (new): A front panel, as set forth
in claim 26, wherein said first, second and third face
members are connected to said base.